

THE
GATEPOST
OCTOBER 2022



In This Issue

Apple Pies
Financial Brief
Concert 4A Cause

October 1
Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM

October 2
World Communion Day
Fall Golf Tournament 1:30 PM
Fusion Gym Night 6:00 PM

October 3
Making Apple Pies 8:00 AM

October 4
Leadership Development Meeting 6:30 PM

October 5
Making Apple Pies 8:00 AM
Junior High & High School Corn Maze 5:15 PM

October 9
3rd Grade Bible Presentation 11:11 AM
Joyful Noise Singers 2:30 PM
Exploring Membership Class 4:00 PM

October 10
Peaceful Piecers 6:30 PM
Worship Team Night 6:00 PM
Fusion Bowling - Small Group Kick 6:00 PM

October 11
Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM

October 15
Mobile Health Unit 10:00 AM
Parents Night Out 6:00 - 9:00 PM

October 16
Laity Sunday
Pancake Breakfast 8:00 - 11:00 AM
Hot Dog/Burger Lunch 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Concert 4A Cause 4:00 PM

October 18
Finance Meeting 6:30 PM

October 22
NOVA Halloween Party 7:00 PM

October 23
Online Hymn Sing 5:00 PM

October 26
Fall Festival 6:30 PM

October 27
Plan for your Future 6:30 PM

October 30
"Hymns for 10" 8:00 AM
Confirmation Class Leadership Ranch 12:30 PM

October 31
Book Club 5:30 PM

Weekly Calendar

Mondays
Ladies' Bible Study Morning 9:30 AM
Ladies' Bible Study 1 & 3rd Weeks 6:30 PM
Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM

Tuesdays
Volleyball 6:00 PM
Aldersgate Time of Prayer 6:30 PM
Stephen Ministry Training 6:30 PM

Wednesdays
Fusion Praise Team Practice 5:00 PM
Dinner 5:30 PM
Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM
Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 PM
Grow Group 6:30 PM
ARK Club 6:30 PM
Biblical Beauties & King's Men 6:30 PM
Confirmation 6:30 PM
7th & 8th Grade Small Groups 6:30 PM
Fusion Gathering 6:30 PM

Thursdays
Bible Study - The Book of Signs 9:00 AM
Knitwits 10:00 AM
Disciple 1 6:30 PM
Stephen Ministry Meeting 2nd & 4th 6:30 PM

Sundays
Handbell Rehearsal 11:15 AM
NOVA Lunch 12:15 PM
Fusion Core Small Group 6:00 PM

Sunday School Classes

Sundays
Crossroads Sunday School 8:15 AM
Sojourners Sunday School 8:15 AM
Club Aldersgate 9:45 AM
Seekers Sunday School 9:45 AM
Youth/Children Sunday School 9:45 AM

Sundays at Aldersgate

Services
Traditional Service 8:15 AM
Contemporary Service 9:45 AM
Simply Grow Service 11:11 AM

If you are a visitor, stop by our welcome desk and get more information.

Together

PASTOR DENNIS - LEAD PASTOR



Fall has arrived and the change in season. We are prepared to continue to give all the information to help us understand what voting for disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church involves and the way forward after voting takes place. We will have the facts and our reasoning involved in bringing this to an important church vote. Our Church Council recommended in September to call a Church Conference to vote on Disaffiliation. I will continue to hold Q and As after my Wednesday night Pastor's Bible Study.

We are hoping to hold the conference in November. Please remember we are a local church family and we will not fight or feud with one another. This is not going to be used in any way to change our mission as a church to be a transforming light in the Nixa Community. Through all this we will love one another and continue to be who we are in Christ, to be Christ to the world!

See You Sunday in Worship (here or where you are!)

Love In Christ,
Pastor Dennis

PS We are the church with a "warm heart" to everyone and for the first time in 3 years we have the apple pies to share in our community again. I am grateful to Susan Harbison, for all she has done throughout the years, including donating apples from her family's orchard, and Barb McCalley, taking care of the financial side. They are helping along with Vickie Giesen and Rhonda Wilson, along with dozens of volunteers, to get 464 pies ready to bless many families.

Apple Pies are Back

Apple Pies are Back!! We are so excited to announce that we ARE making apple pies this year. We started the work on Monday, September 26 and this next Monday, Oct. 3, we will be doing the pie crusts and topping. To make this tradition continue, we need new people to come and learn how to make these wonderful pies. We would love for you to come and help!! Just show up at 8:00 AM on Monday and we will find a job for you.

We will start selling pies at noon on Monday. The pies are \$15 each and we will have 464 available to sell. We do not take advanced orders. We will sell them on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings until they are gone. I wouldn't wait too long.



A.R.K. Aldersgate Righteous Kids



SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday mornings Aldersgate Righteous Kids from, pre-k through 4th grade, are challenged to bring their Bible to Sunday school, memorize a new Bible verse each month and memorize 5 books of the Bible, in order, each month. Join the challenge and the fun on Sunday mornings 9:45 - 10:45 in the ARK wing! Email children@aldersgatechurch.com for more information.

THIS MONTH'S BIBLE VERSE

For the month of October, our ARK Kids will be memorizing Psalm 121:1-2 - "I look up to the mountains - does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!" Our Bible Point is God helps us and our Bible Buddy is Klymer the Snow Leopard. Be sure to join us Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM to hear all about it.



CUB SCOUTS, BOYS SCOUTS, AND VENTURE CREW



At Aldersgate, we support the cub scouts, boy scouts, and venture crew. They are all part of Troop 205. They have been thinking of ways that they can give back to the church, so mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

Saturday, Oct. 15 the Venture Crew will host a Parent's Night Out from 6:00 - 9:00 PM. We are still waiting for details on this event so be on the lookout for more information soon.

Sunday, October 16 the Cub Scouts are hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the CLC from 8:00 - 11:00 AM after the Pancake Breakfast, the Boy Scouts will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

We are proud of all the hard work these scouts do and we would love for you to take advantage of these wonderful events that they will be hosting in October. We will be updating through the weekly Gatepost once we get more details on each of these events.

ALDRSGATE'S ANNUAL

Fall Festival

AND HERO HALLOWEEN HUNT

Wednesday, Oct. 26

6:30 - 7:30 pm

26
OCT



*Non-scary costumes

Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, Oct. 30 at Leadership Ranch

The Confirmation Class will be going to the Leadership Ranch for a time of group bonding. The cost is \$15. Bring a sack lunch and make sure you wear closed-toe shoes.

Middle School and High School

CORN MAZE

fusion

HIGH SCHOOL

Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 5:15 PM

Junior High and High School students, come with us for an evening of fantastic fellowship including: bon fire, marshmallow/hot dog roast, and the corn maze! (There are two sections of the maze. One is haunted and the other is not.) Sign-up ahead of time so we can ensure we have enough space in vehicles. Cost is \$10.

ignition

FUSION CORE - SMALL GROUPS

Fusion Core is discipleship small groups for high school students. The focus is on developing our relationship with God and with each other while enjoying food, games, and Bible study.

Join us on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays for a relaxed night. We rotate between the Mitchell's and Flannery's houses. Join us on the band app to keep up on all things Fusion.



CONCERT 4A CAUSE

Our next CONCERT 4A CAUSE will be held on Sunday, October 16th at 4:00 pm in the Worship Center sanctuary. We are looking for solos, duets, trios, and other musical groups that would share in the concert. All proceeds go to The Least Of These. Will you participate?

We will have a run through on Saturday, October 15th beginning at 9:00 am to do sound and slide/lyric checks. If you need music or help with anything, please let Peggy know.

Peggy Preston at ppreston@aldersgatechurch.com or call the office at 417-725-4949.



Hymn Sing

Sunday, October 23 @ 5:00 pm

online only

HOST

Peggy Preston



JOYFUL NOISE SINGERS

Join us on Sunday, October 9 to bring some joy to our community. The Joyful Noise Singers will sing hymns with residents at Bradford Court in Nixa on the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 PM. Singers arrive by 2:15 PM to prepare. If you would like more information please email

Peggy Preston at
ppreston@aldersgatechurch.com.

"Hymns For 10"

October 30... 8:00 - 8:10 am

Come on in to the sanctuary and join us as we'll be singing songs about God's grace.

HYMNS FOR 10

Please join us in the sanctuary as we sing hymns for 10 minutes from 8:00-8:10 am on the last Sunday of each month. If you attend the 8:15 service, just arrive a little early. If you attend 8:15 Sunday School, just stop by and sing with us before you head up to your class. All are welcome! We will have a different theme each time and it will be so fun to sing together the great hymns of our faith!

JOB OPENING

Church Treasurer - accountant, bookkeeper, or CPA needed for a part-time onsite church treasurer position, 5-10 hours per week. Must be available during office hours on Thursdays. To apply, send a resume to pastorsarah@aldersgatechurch.com.

PASTOR AND STAFF APPRECIATION

By: Staff Parish Relations

October is Pastor Appreciation Month and here at Aldersgate we would like to show our appreciation for not only our pastors but also the very important staff that assist them every day!

Our Pastors, Dennis and Sarah, are essential and a vital part to our church as we all grow as Disciples of Christ and we want to show them our appreciation. There are several ways to accomplish this and these are just a few examples or ideas:

1. Give them a book
2. Give them a thank you note or note of encouragement
3. Give them a gift card (food, movies, activities) they can use for a date night or fun evening out
4. Be mindful of their needs to their own families and sermon or Bible study class planning time
5. Give them a home-cooked meal or baked goodies
6. Make a donation to the pastor's discretionary fund
7. Honor them with your attendance to hear the word of the Bible
8. Volunteer your time and abilities in the ministries to which you are called
9. Make a point to pray for our pastors and staff by name for a continuous 31 days

In addition to October being Pastor Appreciation month, the Staff Parish committee would also like to thank and encourage ALL our Aldersgate staff and beginning October 2nd through December 11th, we will be collecting cash funds to be presented to all staff members in December. We ask that you contact a Staff Parish Committee member, as listed below, should you have questions or would like to arrange a time to provide the funds to one of them in person. We ask that you please place the funds in a sealed envelope and give to an SPR committee member or you can place the sealed envelope in the offering, marking it for Staff Appreciation or SPR. SPR cannot take a check for this offering as it would have to be deposited into the church bank account and the funds allocated to church expenses.

In addition to our Pastors, Aldersgate would not function without these wonderful staff members.

Candice and all her nursery staff

Amber and Shannon with our children's ministries

Evan and the new Middle School Director (TBD) with our youth

Peggy, Christian, Tasha, Colette, and Jared with our music ministry

Brenda, Bethany/Teresa, Casey, and Mike, our superior office staff

All deserve a magnitude of appreciation and we hope you will find it in your hearts to help us show just how much we appreciate everything they do for our church, our families, and our growth as Christians!

With Love in Christ,

Staff Parish Committee

Tara Conley - SPR Chair

Mark McClanahan

Jenaleigh Lathrop

Gary Jacobs

Jeff McCurry

Pam Johnson

David Hayes

Julie Ellis - Lay Leader

Tom Johnson

THANK YOU

To Aldersgate United Methodist Church,
Thank you so much for sharing the altar
flowers with me. They are beautiful. Thank you
so much for all the prayers, visits, and cards
while I was in the hospital and still undergoing
diagnostic tests and procedures. I am so
blessed to have this church beside me.

Caroline Helton

Thank you Aldersgate,
You are a blessing to us! We are so thankful for your
kindness! We so appreciate all of the delicious food!

Love,
Special Force Family Ministries

NEW MEMBERS



Brenda Brandt

Marc and Amy
Allen



Dan and Shannon Dodson



Steve, Bre, and Nala Hansen



Lisa Graves



Mike and Sherrie
Freyer



Rob and Jayne Young



Katherine Clem



Del Matthew

SEPTEMBER LIBRARY UPDATES

By: Terri McBride

Did you know that our church library has Bibles? Not to be checked out, but to take home with you. We have several different versions to choose from, such as the New Oxford Annotated Bible, the NKJV Study Bible, the English Standard Version Bible, the NIV Study Bible, the Living Bible, and more. So, if you would like to have a different version of the Bible to enhance your understanding of the Bible or if you have a family member or a friend that needs a Bible, please stop by the church library and take one home. There is also one Bible cover that was donated and is free to anyone that can use it. The cover is located with the Bibles on the bottom of the right-hand bookshelf under the wall-mounted TV.

This month's book from our "Biographies/Autobiographies" category is [A Heart for Freedom](#) by Chai Ling. Ms. Ling introduces herself in these words "I was born at the beginning of China's Cultural Revolution. Like all Chinese children, I was taught to love my country, sacrifice my own needs, and be ready to give up my life for a greater good. We were not allowed to know God. In 1989, I became a leader of a student hunger strike in Tiananmen Square, a peaceful movement for a better, freer, and more loving China. There I discovered the truth about the government I had been taught to love. In the early-morning hours of June 4, I stood with my friends and watched in horror as the tanks rolled in. During the crackdown, thousands were wounded or killed." After escaping to freedom and achieving her American dream, she felt trapped between her past and the future. She felt haunted by memories of standing against the force of a powerful regime, she had lost her purpose, her homeland, and her strength until God met her and healed her. This is truly a powerful witness of how God can change someone's life in a very dramatic way.



SCAN ME

This month's book from our "Discipleship" category is [Real Followers](#) by Michael Slaughter with Warren Bird. Mike Slaughter, pastor emeritus and global church ambassador for Ginghamburg Church, served for nearly four decades as the lead pastor and chief dreamer of Ginghamburg and the spiritual entrepreneur of ministry marketplace innovations. He is also the author of [Spiritual Entrepreneurs](#) and [Out on the Edge](#), both best sellers. Warren Bird, Ph.D., researches cutting-edge churches and works with their leaders to multiply their evangelistic and disciple-making impact. He has authored or co-authored over 30 books, receiving several awards along the way. This book teaches you how to think God's thoughts as the key to discerning God's will. You will understand that personal desires and ambitions can be aligned with God's dreams for your life. You will realize that there are no three-step or twelve-step techniques for becoming a Real Follower. You will understand, especially from the examples in the book, why high commitment to God's dream for your life involves cost and sometimes suffering. There are real-life examples in each chapter that illustrate how a person moved from low-commitment pretense to finding God's purpose for them. There are also discussion and journaling questions that can be used to enhance your devotional time.



Festival of Sharing Highlights from Cathy Nations

Thank you, Aldersgate family, for your contributions to this year's Festival of Sharing. We gathered enough supplies to fill 25 Missouri Student Dental Kits, 31 Church World Service Hygiene Kits and we collected \$152 in cash donations for a total value of \$917. I delivered these kits on 09/17/2022 to Hood United Methodist Church in Republic. From there, those are taken to Columbia for distribution. Thank you also to Brenda who chose these two kits for all of us to give what we could.

By: Ed Vigneaux

DEUTERONOMY 6:5-8

I don't believe it's just my spiritual life, although modern culture defines it that way. Therefore, it must be more than that. I think it involves everything about me, my personality, my will, my thoughts, in other words, my inner life. In the Law and most of the Old Testament, the soul is almost always linked to the heart, as in many of the Psalms. In the story of Job, it's almost always a place of bitterness.

Why is that so hard to do? Because it must be real, all or nothing. If we profess to believe in Him and pledge ourselves to Him, then it's 100%, nothing less.

I just finished reading a book titled A.D. 33 by Ted Dekker. This is the first book I've read that explains what it means to give of yourself wholly to God through His Son Jesus. I recommend it highly. I'm not sure if the church library has a copy, but if not, I'm going to see that it has one soon.

A hand holding a black pen, pointing at a large word cloud graphic. The word cloud features various terms related to volunteerism and social impact, with 'VOLUNTEER' being the largest word. Other prominent words include 'GIVE', 'MONEY', 'FOOD', 'HUMANITARIAN', 'FRIENDSHIP', 'LEISURE', 'HAPPINESS', 'UNITY', 'SUCCESS', 'TEAMWORK', 'COOPERATION', 'SOCIAL', 'FREEDOM', 'PEOPLE', 'WORK', 'HUMANITY', 'LOVE', 'GIVING', 'LIFE', 'COMMUNITY', 'TOGETHERNESS', 'DIVERSITY', 'SUPPORT', 'TEAM', 'FAMILY', 'GROWTH', 'HOPE', 'ASSISTANCE', 'UNITY', 'LIFE', 'COMMUNITY', 'TOGETHERNESS', 'HOPE', 'ASSISTANCE'.

Refreshments will be served in the Commons after each service. We're looking forward to seeing you.



Get your sewing machines ready!

On October 10 at 6:30 pm in room 207 the Peaceful Piecers will be making potholders and oven mitts. These make wonderful gifts and can also be used if you just need something to grab those hot pots and pans. (If you are like me, using kitchen towels for that purpose aren't really the best choice!) We will be providing regular batting, ovenproof batting, and some material to use. If you want to bring material, that would be wonderful, too. This is a good way to use some of your leftover fabric. Bring your sewing machine. If you have questions, please call Claren Holmes at 417-429-5945 or Cathy Nations at 417-848-3497.

FINANCE BRIEF

By: Ben Stone

Year-to-date financial summary through August 31, 2022:

Revenue	\$ 633,663
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 806,855
Actual Expenses	\$714,536
Net	\$ (80,873)

The original amount of the loan for the new Learning Center was \$4,162,200. The current balance as of August 31, 2022, is \$3,412,246.

You have probably noticed the prices of a lot of things have gone up over the last several months. The church is not immune to this inflation, and as we enter the annual season of preparing budgets for next year, we are faced with challenges. We must consider we have been operating with a deficit throughout 2022, despite controls to hold spending below budget. We also must acknowledge that the cost of about everything are going up; plus, our staff needs and deserve cost-of-living adjustments or more. The ongoing discussions about the future of Aldersgate and the United Methodist Church add another element of uncertainty.

The answers to these challenges may not be clear, but the clear path to the answers is faith and hard work.

God is alive and working. There have been many new faces at church lately, which is exciting! I hope any person that attends for the first time will not see a challenged group, but a family of followers who are living and giving faithfully!

Every member of the body has great gifts. If you are able to share financial gifts, then give as much as you are led. If you are gifted in playing music, teaching, cleaning, or fixing... then share those blessings as much as you are led! May we continue to look to the Holy Spirit as our source of hope and joy!



Aldersgate Book Club

The next meeting will be Monday, October 31 at 5:30 in LC 207. This month they are reading [The Mountain Between Us](#) by Charles Martin. This is open to anyone. We will be discussing over dinner, which you will need to bring your own. We can't wait to see you.

BE PREPARED

You are invited to join Julie Ellis, an attorney, and Lay Leader at Aldersgate, and the Stephen Ministry team, on Thursday, October 27th at 6:30 pm, as we discuss the crucial topics of advanced medical planning and directives, discuss the costs and steps that can be taken to prepare for and pay for long-term care, should that be needed now or in the future, and also discuss estate planning, including wills and trusts. We would invite everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to prepare a Health Care Durable Power of Attorney, also known as Advanced Directives or Living Wills, for no charge.

She will have informative booklets and fill-in-the-blank forms will be available for you to complete with your wishes and desires, and they can be notarized on the spot, or you can take them home and pray over them before finalizing. We will answer your questions about why this is so important to you and your loved ones and touch on the topic of whether advance directives are Biblical and why everyone needs one.



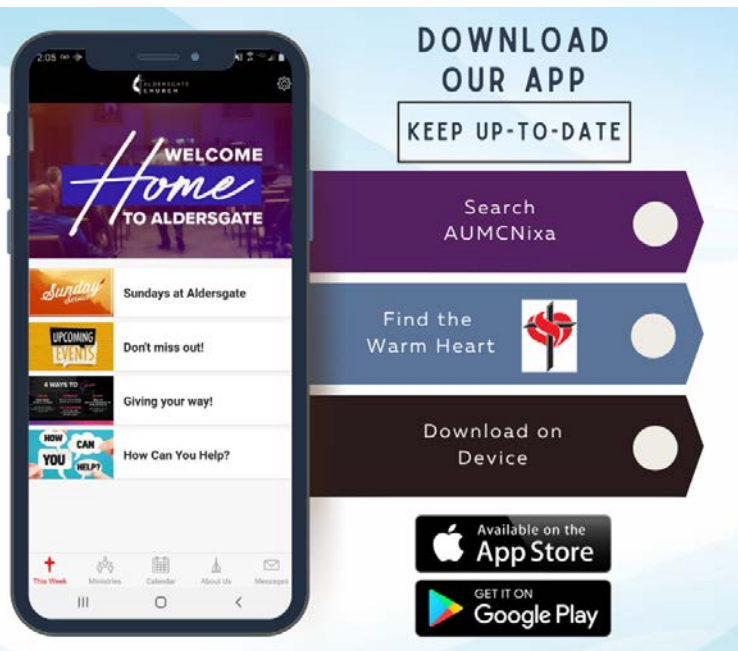
RECEIVING CARE FROM A STEPHEN MINISTER

Are you feeling alone or uncared for, even in the midst of family or friends? Are you struggling with a setback or grieving a loss of a loved one, a job, or a relationship?

Are you experiencing chronic or terminal illness? Is your hope battered, even overwhelmed by despair, fear, or uncertainty?

If so, Stephen Ministry pairs a trained Stephen Minister to join with you on your journey, to shine the light of Christ on the path. Having your own Stephen Minister might be just what Jesus would want for you. The relationship is strictly confidential.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a care receiver, you may contact the church office and be put in touch with a Stephen Leader.



CHURCH STAFF

Pastors

Dennis Miller - Lead Pastor

Sarah Fotopulos - Executive Pastor

Staff

Amber Huels - Children's Ministry Director

Bethany Strong - Office Administrator

Brenda Clark - Business Administrator

Candice Eddington - Childcare Coordinator

Casey Freeland - Communications Director

Christian Barnard - Contemporary Worship Arts Director

Evan Reed - High School Director

Jared Middleton - Technical Lead

Peggy Preston - Traditional Worship Arts Director

Shannon Dodson - Preschool Director

Teresa Ross - Administrative Assistant

